

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEGUCI 04408 140057Z
ACTION SS-25

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O 132353Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 1544
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CARACAS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEGUCIGALPA 4408

EXDIS

DEPT PASS NSC

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3
TAGS: PINT, NU, HO
SUBJ: NICARAGUA MFM

REF: (A) STATE 231766, (B) TEGUCIGALPA 4407

1. POLITICAL OFFICER AND I MET AT 4:30 PM LOCAL TIME SEPTEMBER 13 WITH FOREIGN MINISTER PALMA GALVEZ TO CARRY OUT INSTRUCTIONS CONTAINED REF A. PALMA WAS AWARE ALREADY OF OUR EARLIER CONVERSATION (REF B) WITH HIS VICE FOREIGN MINISTER AND STATED THAT HE HAS RECOMMENDED TO JUNTA THAT HONDURAS VOTE IN FAVOR OF MFM CONVOCATION. PALMA SAID THAT JUNTA DECISION WILL BE MADE TONIGHT AND THAT HE WILL INFORM ME OF DECISION EARLY TOMORROW MORNING (SEPTEMBER 14).

2. PALMA SAID THAT COSTA RICAN AMBASSADOR CALLED ON JUNTA AT 2:00 PM SEPTEMBER 13 TO STATE THAT COSTA RICA WILL REQUEST MFM CONVOCATION BASED ON ARTICLE 3 OF RIO TREATY. COSTA RICA RE-
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QUESTED HONDURAN SUPPORT. FOREIGN MINISTER WAS PRESENT AND RECOMMENDED TO JUNTA THAT HONDURAS VOTE AS COSTA RICA REQUESTED.

3. PALMA COMMENTED THAT CONVOCATION BASED ON RIO TREATY CHANGED SITUATION BECAUSE THERE WOULD NO LONGER BE QUESTION OF MEETING ON BASIS OF MUCH TOO GENERAL ARTICLE 59 OF OAS CHARTER WHICH COULD LEAD NICARAGUA TO CHARGE INTERFERENCE IN ITS INTERNAL AFFAIRS.

PALMA SAID THAT HE RECOMMENDED THAT COSTA RICA BE SUPPORTED IN SPITE OF FACT THAT THERE WAS PRACTICALLY NO NICARAGUAN AGGRESSION ON COSTA RICA AND THAT NICARAGUA WAS SIMPLY CHASING SANDINISTAS. NEVERTHELESS, HONDURAS HAD TWICE BEFORE REQUESTED MEETINGS OF FOREIGN MINISTERS BASED ON RIO TREATY, AND HE FELT GOH SHOULD ACCOMPANY COSTA RICA. HE ADDED THAT HE WOULD BE MEETING WITH GROUP OF FORMER FOREIGN MINISTERS TO REVIEW JURIDICAL GROUNDS FOR CONVOCAION (WHICH DEMONSTRATES JUST HOW IMPORTANT LEGAL BASIS FOR CONVOCAION IS TO GOH).

4. PALMA GALVEZ SAID HE WANTS DEPARTMENT TO KNOW THAT HONDURAS IS DEEPLY CONCERNED OVER NICARAGUAN SITUATION AND REALIZES FULLY THAT HONDURAN SECURITY WILL BE AFFECTED EVEN MORE THAN COSTA RICA'S IF THERE IS A COMMUNIST TAKEOVER IN NICARAGUA.

5. PALMA NOTED THAT HE HAD WANTED TO GO TO MANAGUA TOMORROW (SEPTEMBER 14) TO REVIEW SITUATION WITH NICARAGUAN GOVERNMENT BUT THAT MANAGUA AIRPORT IS CLOSED AND THAT HONDURAN AIRLINE (SAHSA) HAS NOW CANCELLED ITS FLIGHTS THERE.

6. HE ALSO SAID HE WANTED WASHINGTON TO KNOW THAT EL SALVADOR HAS MOBILIZED MILITARY TROOPS NEAR HONDURAN BORDER. HONDURAS IN TURN HAD DONE NO MORE THAN TO BEEF UP POLICE UNITS, HE REPEATED POLICE UNITS, AT BORDER POSTS. PALMA COMMENTED THAT EL SALVADOR MUST THINK THAT HONDURAS WILL BE FORCED TO MOVE ITS TROOPS TO NICARAGUAN BORDER BUT PALMA SAID THAT HONDURAN SOLDIERS WILL NOT

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BECOME EMBROILED IN NICARAGUA.

7. STILL ON THE SUBJECT OF EL SALVADOR, PALMA COMPLAINED ABOUT A RECENT SPEECH BY SALVADORAN FOREIGN MINISTER RODRIGUEZ PORTH WHICH REVIVED MEMORIES OF THE 1969 WAR. PALMA SAID THAT RODRIGUEZ' WORDS VIOLATED THE BORDER MEDIATION AGREEMENT BUT THAT HONDURAS HAD NOT WANTED TO MAKE A PUBLIC ISSUE OF THIS SO AS NOT TO JEOPARDIZE CHANCES OF MEDIATION'S SUCCESS.

8. CHARGE EXPRESSED SATISFACTION THAT HONDURAS SHARED OUR GRAVE CONCERN OVER CENTRAL AMERICAN SECURITY AS A RESULT OF NICARAGUAN DEVELOPMENTS. PALMA SAID THAT HONDURAS HAD STOOD READY TO SUPPORT COSTA RICA'S CENTRAL AMERICAN INITIATIVE BUT HAD BEEN SURPRISED THAT BOTH COSTA RICAN AND SALVADORAN FOREIGN MINISTERS HAD TRAVELLED TO EUROPE IN MIDDLE OF CRISIS.

9. FOREIGN MINISTER AGAIN PROMISED TO INFORM CHARGE PROMPTLY OF HOW HONDURAS WILL VOTE - AND WE WILL IN TURN REPORT BY FLASH TO DEPARTMENT.
RONDON

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED NSC.

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